Recd July 14
Ans Sept 11.

Parry

Sandy-Hill. Washington Co. N.Y.
July 2d 1851

Dr Engleman

Dear Sir:

I enclose at the request of Maj Emory some rough notes of Cacti observed on the Boundary Survey between the Pacific & Colorado rivers.- In drawing up these notes I have been governed by the instructions given by you to Major Emory. The notes are an exact transcript of the field notes taken on the spot, as I thought you might prefer them in that form.

I wish to get your opinion in reference to them for insertion in the Report I am now engaged in of the Botany & Geology in connection with the Pacific side of the Boundary Survey. Please state what species are probably new and what would be the most desirable form to introduce them into a general Report-

I had no opportunity to get drawings of the living plants or to secure but a meagre collection; of the latter, including nearly a complete set of seeds I am sorry to inform you that they were lost by the carelessness of an officer in which they were sent in charge, in crossing the Isthmus including also a complete years collection in that region -

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Dr Torrey has the remainder, brought home by me in April last. and designs sending them to you by the first good opportunity

My report will embrace a pretty fair view of the Botany of South California. and I shall be able to get the novelties well illustrated.

As my time is somewhat limited. in the completion of my report. I will request you to answer at your earliest convenience. With the notes you may make what future use you may desire

Address. C C Parry. Sandy-Hill. Wash. Co. N.Y

Respectfully Yours
C C Parry

Recd Dec 29.
Ans Jan 15

Eagle Pass Texas. Nov 26th 1852

Dr Engleman

Dear Sir: I received you letter of Sept 7th a few days ago, having just arrived here after a long & arduous trip down the Rio Grande from Presidio del Norte, to this place.

You probably know that this section of the Bdy Survey has long been a terra-incognita and I was thus induced to volunteer in its exploration principally with a view to Geology. and I certainly feel well repaid for all my privations in seeing some of the most singular scenery that I believe the world can offer

I made on the route a fine gleaning of plants and rather copiously of seeds. in which you will doubtless feel interested serving as they do to give completeness to the previous collections of Wislizenus & Wright. I noticed very few peculiar Cacti. and had no means for making the collections I should have wished. in fact since my connection with the Bdy Com on this end of the line. I have been on a nearly continuous Campaign generally connected with pack mule train which you know offer very poor facilities for transporting Cacti. I also knew that Mr Wright & Dr Bigelow, who were more stationary were zealously occupied in making copious collections which I am still more glad to learn from since com into your hands & given great satisfaction. — During a time of leisure on the Rio Grande last summer I occupied myself in making somewhat copious notes of some 4 or 5 Cerei that came in my way, including collection of fruit &c. noting habit. These I hope to put in your hands at some future day, when you may be able to combine your information in an accurate delineation & discrimination of species. The only Cactus noticed on my last journey was a very singular spineless Mamillaria. which since I came I learn, has been nearly simultaneously collected by Mr Schott* & Dr. Bigelow. I made out a description, which as the plant & notes have been already sent you by Mr Schott I enclose in order to complete the description. By Dr Bigelows suggestion I concur in naming it M. Schotii"

In reference to the enquiries contained in your letter I can answer. 1st That the San Diego Mamillaria is according to my distinct recollection constantly marked by 4 hooked central spines. had I access to my collection I think I could send you specimens of bunches of spines also fruit. the number of the slender ray spines I probably did not note but think they were about 12 more or less

2d In mentioning Opuntia fruits as "set with spines" I did not make the proper distinction you suggest. in all cases "bristles" would be the more appropriate term.

3d The Opuntia allied to O. arborescens. is I am certain widely different, though their habits are considerably alike. the Californian sp. is distinguished mainly. according to my recollection. by the peculiar salver formed flower. the petals small

* Mr Schott. has figured the M. Schottii. and will send you the figure soon by letter.

and of a darker red than O. arborescens. — but more than all. the proliferous fruit of the California sp. which according to my observation never matures its seeds seems peculiar. I think however a reference to the flowers of the two species will settle the point of their distinctness. I ought to have somewhere dried specimen of the flower of the Californian sp.

In reference to specimens collected I think I informed you of the unfortunate loss of my first parcels sent home. those that remain were put in Dr Torrey's hands and would have been sent to you had a good opportunity offered. they will probably reach you some time or other. Your letter addressed to me at Sandy Hill. N.Y was also by my request sent to Dr Torrey who long since acknowledged its receipt to me.

My Specimens of Cereus Giganteus. are still in my hands, owing to pressure of business at Mr Wrights departure. they could not then be sent- They will go by the first opportunity. You will be glad to learn that. at last the flower has been got by Mr Thurber attached to Mr Bartletts. party. and the same has been figured by an accomplished artist- doubtless also the fruit has been seen. and when these are all brought together. we shall have a complete view of this most remarkable plant.— On my first observations I fell into the same mistake as Dr LeConte. about the relative position of ribs & ligneous columns. but having occasion to chop down one growing specimen to make my measurements I corrected the mistake.

You doubtless hear of the peculiar & perplexing situation in which the Commission is now placed by the action of Congress – we are now constantly expecting disbandment – there has been great mismanagement of the whole business as I have had occasion to know & experience since its first formation in 1849. It is however cheering to know at its conclusion. that botany at least will be a permanent monument and the material already collected. by Mr Wright Dr Bigelow. Mr Schott Mr Thurber. & myself will eventually form a work when properly modelled by yourself Dr Torrey & Gray. that will do honor to the country.

Mr Schott a countryman of yours. who joined the Commission under Maj Emory by the recommendation of Dr Torrey. is an accomplished draughtsman. and has paid special attention to botanical drawing having figured under Dr Torreys directions the plants of Capt Stansburys report – I was very desirous that he should accompany me on my more interesting trips in the interior but unfortunately he has been confined by his duties as Surveyor to a comparatively small & uninteresting section near this place. he has however taken many fine views, & made interesting Geological collections.

I think quite probable that I may soon see you at St Louis. and have the pleasure of a personal interview

With much respect

Yours truly Chas C Parry.

Recd Jan 14th
Ans Jan 15th

Eagle Pass Texas Dec 18th 1852

Dr Engelmann

Dear Sir:

I have lately been shown by Dr Bigelow your printed notice of Cereus Giganteus &c— I have also had the pleasure of looking over your note of Nov 10th. Dr Bigelow I believe intends giving you a detailed answer. I have only time to allude to a few points, still expecting soon to call on you at St Louis, when by personal inspection I can give you much more definite & satisfactory information—

It has frequently occurred to me that an extended _field_ observation would greatly reduce the No of sp. by embracing the varieties under one head:— to us in fact there is no difficulty in distinguishing species. but I can easily see how much patience it must require to separate them, from the disjointed materials sent to you at different times and from different places— I have given to Dr Bigelow some few notes I made on what you indicate as _Echinocactus albispinus_ n sp which I was the first to discover on my way to the Gila in Jany last without however seeing flower— but I think I have a few seeds, it comes very near to E. laticostatus as you will see when Dr Bigelow sends my notes. I also found on route what I suppose to be the E. intertextus of which I collected flower on some specimens probably included in N & Bd Collection of last Spring. I have also little doubt but this is identical with your _C. adustus_. & _E radians_ of Wislizenus rept.

{Maj Emory is still absent on the Lower Rio Grande}

About the Cerei. as I wrote you a short time since — I made last June quite detailed descriptions. of 4 species including what I suppose to be C dasyacanthus. — C Roemeri? (which includes I think all the nocturnal persistent flowered ones) — then there are two very widely spread species. probably same as indicated by you. as C stramineus & C albispinus. — the first of these is the "delicious fruited" one commonly known as the pitahaya — it forms close spiny stools often containing 200 distinct stems distinguished by its straw-colored spines & large purple fruit — flowers light crimson — &c &c — of which I have detailed descriptions. under the name C deliciosus — The C albispinus? is frequently associated with this, is also cespitose but of a more straggling habit, less number of ribs more fleshy texture — white spines fruit very variable. green or purple &c &c — The fruit of all these C. are edible. having a fine gooseberry flavor varying in the several sp. I am quite certain that on seeing your specimens I could readily refer them to their proper sp. and clear up from my notes & your materials complete descriptions. — To the Opuntiae & Mamillarias I have paid less attention. —

At present I have my notes & collections so scattered that I could not draw up my notes satisfactorily or I would do so at once & send them you, but as I said before I have little doubt of being able to visit you soon. and all these matters can be then attended to

Should you have occasion for the services of a draftsman to aid you in your forthcoming publication I think that Mr Schott would suit you — Could we depend on the Commission affairs taking a favorable turn I think that Maj Emory would consent to put him at your disposal at least for a sufficient time to complete the Cacti of Bdy Survey —

About the California Cacti I was surprised to find that so large a portion of them were novelties. the names selected by you are very expressive — I hardly know what to think of Nuttals C Californicus. I do not see how a "common" Cactus could have escaped me in my two years sojourn near San Diego — Without having my notes at hand. I am a little inclined to doubt. whether the sp of E. found East of Cordilleras, is the same as the coast one, by my recollection there are sufficient points of difference to separate them — There is considerable yet to do in the Gila valley. I noticed several tree form Opuntias — very distinct from O. arborescens, or O. prolifera — also Cerei & Mamillarias —

But in the hope of a more free communication hereafter

I remain Most respectfully Yours

C C Parry

Recd Jan 20 1853
Ans March 10th

Cereus deliciosus (mihi) C. Stramineus? Engl mss.

Axes densely cespitose 15 to 200 - Single branches 5 to 9 inches in height 2-3 inch diameter at broadest point - tapering upwards to a sharp wooly & spiney vertex. Ribs broad - flattened below, sharp ridged above 12-13 in No.; Tubercles transversely furrowed giving the ribs a wrinkled appearance; areolas small orbicular, upper ones bedded with white wool closely approximate below more distant above. Spines 4 central larger setiform spreading 2¼ inch long, radiate smaller numerous ¾ to 1½ inch -

Flower 3 inch diameter, with the attached ovary 4 inch long - internal sepals 2 inch. External diminishing in size gradually verging into the fleshy bracts, subtending the areolas - Stamens numerous proceeding from a projecting fleshy ring, inside the petals, shorter than the pistil - pistil having 11 green spreading stigmata. - flower pink, (or light crimson) showy.

Fruit orbicular ovate 1½, to 2 inch, long 1½ inch diameter, crowned with the remains of the sepals and set with numerous bunches of setiform bristles, the areolas being subtended by fleshy bracts, most conspicuous at the upper part, and verging into the outer bract form sepals, areolas with the bunches of spines obliquely disposed, & deciduous when the fruit is mature,

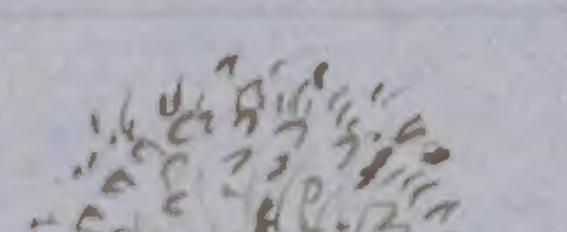
Ripe fruit redish purple composed of an external juicy pelicle, with an internal fibrous coat, enclosing the pulp. – pulp reddish, with black immersed seeds, very luscious, having a flavor intermediate between the strawberry & gooseberry.

Distinguished from the following C — ? by the pointed and more regular shape of the axes, more regular disposition of the areolae & spines, the latter being of a bright white color below, and brownish straw color above, the younger central spines being pink.

The whole plant forms large round stools, symmetrical in shape, and of a very forbidding spiny aspect,

The tissue consists of a large proportion of external cellular tissue, 1/4 inch, with small enclosed bundles of woody fibres, & internal pith (both together) 5/8 inch diameter.

Hab – a wide spread species, nearly constant on the high gravelly tableland, & Mt slopes of the Rio Grande, from El Paso, to the Pecos – West to the Gila &c It flowers in June and perfects its fruit in July & Aug. –



P.S. I have notes on C dasyacanthus & C Roemeri or Coccineus ? also some observations on C Greggii. which latter was quite abundant in fruit near Presidio del Norte by my observations it prefers a loose gravelly soil. the fr is closely sessile and not at all attenuate below in large specimens the upper joints have an increased number of angles. increasing upward from 3 at base 1st joint to 6 at top joints at summit. I examined one root 2 ft in length & 5 inch diameter being carrot shape – I saw it as far West as San Bardadino. (but always scattering)

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Cereus (albispinis)? (Engl Mss.)

Cespitose, separate axes cylindric ovate; swelling toward the base, ~~flattened~~ tapering above, 6 – 8 inch in length, 2 – 3 in diameter at widest point; Ribs 8 to 9 perpendicular broad & swelling below, narrowing upward, with deeper & narrower intervals. transversely wrinkled at the division of the ~~areolea~~ tubercles; Tubercles slightly swolen below, more pointed & prominent above; areoleas small orbicular, slightly wooly, more so above. toward the vertex; Spines consisting of 4 central (longer) 5 – 8 radiate (smaller) Central Spines 2 – 3 inch long Extending outward & on each side flattened & angled below & widening toward their insertion – white the younger ones with redish tipped points. ; radiate Spines 1 inch, Extending in irregular rays

Flower fruit (notes refer to specimen not at hand) similar to the above with longer petals &c →

Fruit lateral. orbicular ovate crowned with the persistent remains of the flower, 1 – 1½ long, 1 inch in diameter sparsely covered with bunches of bristles obliquely disposed, & deciduous when the fruit is mature, areolea of fruit occasionally subtended by fleshy bracts – Fruit especially when green distinctly marked into rhomboidal spaces corresponding to each tubercle., 20 to 24 in No Mature fruit green or rarely redish. very

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variable in size.., composed of a loose fleshy pellicle with internal fibrous coats, enclosing white or redish pulp with black immersed seeds. flavor pleasant acid resembling the Gooseberry -

Hab - Forming dense cespitose masses. mostly confined to the upper bottoms of the Rio grande & associated with the Larrea Mexicana, & Mezquite extends from El Paso, to below Presidio del Norte, forms masses often 2 ft in diameter but of a more straggling habit than C deliciosus. Tissue of axis more loose & flabby, woody fibres similar, & seen to correspond with the intervals of the ribs. - Fruit ripe June & July often with flowers intermixed - root small fibrous -

Dr Engelmann

Dr Sir: I avail myself of an interval of leisure to copy for you notes of two Cerei sp alluded to in my last letter hope they will assist you in distinguishing species Maj Emory is still at Ringold Barracks below - Commissioner Bartlett has not yet made his appearance - we are waiting the action of Congress. I have suggested to Maj E. to send to you Mr Schott (the Draftsman) to draw up the Cacti of the B.y Survey Mr S. has several sketches of Cacti from this vicinity including I think a new Mamillaria Cacti are rather rare hereabouts It is quite uncertain when I get off

Very Respectfully yours

C C Parry

Eagle Pass Dec 26th

Recd Febr 7th
Ans March 10

Eagle Pass. Texas Jany 4th/53

Dr Engelmann

Dear Sir:

We have just received news of the arrival of the Commissioner on the river Rio Grande. and the conclusion to stop the survey & disband the party. I have been ordered by Major Emory to repair to Washington (direct) and report to him in person. Mr Schott goes with me. This will prevent me from visiting you at present, as anticipated and I therefore send copy of the balance of my notes on Cactaceae:— they include descriptions of some well known species but you may be able to gather some additional information. I have alluded only to flower & fruit - so specimens are probably now with you or will be sent hereafter - on reaching N.Y. I shall make it a point to have every thing in the Cactus line sent on to you as speedily as possible and shall urge on Maj Emory the importance of my consulting with you, and affording you the services of Mr Schott as draftsman for the botanical report. Dr Bigelow is now absent on an excursion into Mexico. I expect he will return to his home in Ohio and will probably either send or bring with him to St Louis the small collection on hand, —

I have just learned that our old Comrade Wright is to go with one of the Pacific expeditions. We hope he will have good success in that distant field.

I expect to reach Washington by middle of Feby when I shall be happy to receive a letter from you

Most Respectfully yours

C C Parry

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To Dr George Engelmann }
Recd Feb 7th 1853
Ans March 10

— [illegible] —

C Parry

Cereus dasyacanthus. n. sp. yellow flower.

Axis cylindric, 6-9 inch high 2-3 inch diameter: thickly covered with bunches of white rose tipped spines. Ribs perpendicular usual number 15 1/2 to 3/4 inch apart with shallow intervals and sharp ridges formed by the prominent tubercles; areolae orbicular ovate 1/8 to 2/8 inch apart (upper & lower) lower areolae smooth, upper wooly: Spines numerous composed usually of 4 to 6 central smaller) slightly spreading — 16 (larger radiate, all setiform, the central spines 1/8 to 3/8 inch long swelling slightly from their insertion with pink or purple sharp tips; radiate spines spreading & interlocking with those adjoining so as nearly to conceal the tissue of the plant upper smaller 2/8 inch, lower & lateral longer 1/2 inch — Ribs & bunches of spines coalescing at the apex presenting a confused cluster of sharp spines, upper areolae & vertex wooly with short white wool.

Flower yellowish green. See Specimen.. May; Fruit matures in June, lateral in the axils of the upper tubercles orbicular ovate, 1 1/4 inch long 1 inch diameter crowned with the usually persistent sepals — set with numerous rows of oblique small bunches of spines corresponding to those of the axis but smaller & less crowded, deciduous when the fruit is mature.

MS
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Ripe fruit greenish purple consisting of a thin skin enclosing a pulpy mass white or pinkish imbedding the small black seeds.— Taste palatable resembling gooseberry

Hab.— Edges of gravelly table land on Rio Grande from El Paso to entrance of Cañon, 70 miles below. Generally simple sometimes branched the branches springing from different points of the main stem when near the base giving a cespitose appearance. Roots small horizontal fibrous 6 to 9 inches long.

Tissue of stems composed of a thick external layer of green cellular tissue surrounding bundles of woody fibres, the latter wedge shaped with the edge pointing inward, about one line in breadth sending irregular branching fibres through the external cellular tissue and terminating in the areolae & bundles of spines — Internal cellular tissue 5/8 to 7/8 inch diameter of a whiter color than the external, connecting with this through the intervals of the woody bundles not traversed with woody fibres.

? Parry 1883

Cereus - (Roemeri coccineus)? nocturnal persistent flowers. —

Axis cylindric club shaped. 6 - 10 inch high 3 - 4 inch diameter usualy cespitose rarely branched at the base portion of the main axis No of Ribs 13 broad flattened below, sharper above - tubercles prominent ovate sending transverse ridges as far as the intervals of the ribs, areolae orbicular ovate upper ones bedded with white wool and set with bunches of spines. Spines regularly disposed in each areolae 1/2 to 3/4 inch apart (above & below) converging with the ribs toward the upper stem & forms a confused [illegible] of spines & wooly areolae — Spines composed of 2 - 3 central larger diverging - 7 - 9 radiate. Central lower spine longest 3/4 to 1 inch long, in the younger growth having brownish sharp points; Radiate spines 1/4 to 3/4 inch setiform & spreading

Flower bright pink see specimens —

Fruit orbicular when mature plump smooth purplish 3/4 to 1 1/4 inch diameter crowned with the persistent remains of the flower, set with areolae & bunches of deciduous spines obliquely disposed upper areolae subtended by flesty bracts

Hab. gravelly places near Rio Grande, above & below El Paso associated with Larrea forming large cespitose bunches flower in April fruit in June, Tissue of axis similar to C dasyacanthus

Echinocactus laticostatus : n sp

Axis simple orbicular flattened or ovate 4 to 8 inch in length 3-5 inch in breadth No of ribs in mature specimens very constantly 8. broad & rounded having a swolen appearance at the broadest diameter - set with regular bunches of spines at the lower part of the ribs grooved with transverse marks corresponding to the compressed tubercles the grooves extending to the intervals of the main ribs. upper portion of the ribs smoothly rounded hardly marked by the slightly swelling tubercles - converging at the apex which is bedded with a dense lanate wooly mass enclosing setiform spiny scales and wooly covered flowers & fruit Areolae ovate lower ones only slightly wooly

Bunches of spines very uniformly 8 in No. (corresponding to the number of the ribs) all radiate spreading & recurved. lower central one longest broad & flattened toward the base white marked with pink annulated rings - other spines closely resembling the central but smaller

Flowers pink opening in bright sunshine. very [illegible] regularly formed size &c see sp

Fruit dry &c see specimen

Hab gravelly edges of table land from El Paso to near the mouth of Pecos river - flowering in May and continuing to push out its beautiful pink flowers till July the new flowers occupying the center and crowding the old remains (often very numerous on each side Root small fibrous horizontal & perpendicular

E. [illegible] n sp - Notes copied of Dr Bigelow & sent before. —

C C Parry.

Recd March 29
Ans June 30

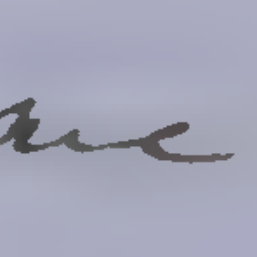
New York. March 18th 1853

Dr Engelman

Dear Sir:

I have just received your letter of date Jany 13th and Enclosure. which has fortunately followed me up to this place

I am at present much engaged in sorting and arranging the botanical collection of the Mexican Bdy. Survey but will attend to your enquiries and requisitions at the earliest moment.

At present I can only allude to your enquiries in reference to our strange Mammillaria. The areolae form a slit on the upper side of the triangular tubercles and are wooly.  Ex. upper surface of the tubercle with a longitudinal areolae in the center – the wool is most abundant in the young (upper) scales and the vertex is densely wooly – the flowers are several & successive in the axis and the ovary & fruit are entirely hidden in the long wool

I enclose a specimen of flower from my collection & fruit specimen from Mr Schott The fruit I think is only bedded in the wool and not set in the main axis

I also enclose the only specimen I have of flower of *Echinocactus* *Viridescens* from San Diego.

You enquire whether Echinocactus Wislizeni is found on the Gila. In reply I can say that what I took to be the same as the one so common near El Paso was frequently met with, often growing in connection with *Cereus Giganteus*. I have no specimens to refer to. thinking without doubt they were the same —

I could not identify hardly any of the Cacti in Maj Emorys report. partly because I was not over the precise region of the upper Gila. also the season. Early Spring. was unfavorable. to Cacti observations

In a few days I hope to pack & send you all the material in my possession which will need some sorting. and hunting up before they can be all collected

I think I have at various times sent you all my notes included in several letters. lately sent

I do not expect to go again into the field with Maj Emory. having office work at home in working out the botany & geology of the previous expeditions

I think very probable I may come out to St Louis in the Spring.

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Dr Torrey sends regards wishing to be remembered to you I will write soon again in full answer to your Enquiries

Very Respectfully Yours
C C Parry

Dr George Engelmann
St Louis
Mo.

New York April 1st 1853

Dr Gray

Dear Sir;

I have been several times on the point of writing to you in reference to various botanical subjects, and should certainly have done so before had not my personal intercourse with Dr Torrey seemed to render it an unnecessary tax upon your time. At present the Dr is much occupied in out door matters and the anxieties of house-moving so that it is not unlikely that there are several points of interest to you in our Mex. Bdy Collections that he may not have attended to. — We have the collection now tolerably well arranged for reference and I hope the Dr will soon be able to take up and describe the new ones for publication. You have perhaps been informed by Prof. Baird that it is in contemplation to commence the issue of a bulletin of discoveries in the various Departments of Nat. Hist. to consist of

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short characters of new Species. to be struck off immediatly in separate sheets as sent, each sheet being stereotyped, & bearing its own date - it is proposed to make this the medium of our discoveries, and to commence the issue forthwith. No doubt Dr Torrey will consult you in reference to this matter. that an understanding be formed especially with reference to the lower orders, yet in the main unpublished. I have been much pleased to see a commencement made with the Nyctaginea. to which we hope to add some nice things thus we have 2 n sp Selinocarpus. - two or three Boerhaavia - of the Pentacrophys. we have fine fully developed flowers. - also the Abronias about which there seems to be some confusion we have the means of fully clearing up. - so in reference to other matters which you will be duly informed of. In reference to any of these matters of immediate interest to you, it will give me pleasure to furnish you any material at my disposal. such as Dr Torrey in the hurry of other engagements might overlook

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There is a probability of my going out for a short season again into the field, on the lower Rio Grande in which case I hope to make some little addition to our stock of novelties.

I shall also claim the privilege of making your personal acquaintance when I can do so with most advantage to the duties entrusted to my care, permit me then to close this first letter with expressions of my sincere regard & esteem

C C Parry.

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Recd April 14th
Ans June 30

New York April 7th 1853

Dr Engelmann

Dear Sir,

I have just packed to send to you by Express the collection of Cacti you requested. They will be sent by Adams & Co Express. and not knowing your Street & No you will get it at by calling or leaving your address at the office

I have put up everything I can find referring to the California Cacti and you will I hope be able to solve some of your questions from the Specimens sent. I have been obliged to postpone the full answer to your queries accompanying my notes having since its reception been summoned on to Washington. It is probable that I shall have to take the field again for a few months on the Lower Rio Grande. If so I shall make the effort to go out via St Louis.

In reference to the [illegible] Cacti. I have made a selection of everything that I thought might be of any assistance, a great portion of the material is in great confusion from want of proper labels and mixing of specimens so that I thought you would prefer to see only what distinctly marked and can be referred with certainty to the proper species.

Dr Bigelow was here a few days ago on his way to his home in Lancaster Ohio. Mr Wright is in this [illegible] expecting to sail early next week.

I heard in Washington from Prof Baird that he had received notice of a new French publication containing descriptions of new Cacti from Mexico & South America. He has sent for the work. I also heard that Mr Potts of Chihuahua has been lately in Washington and mentioned the fact (somewhat exaggerated no doubt) that he had lately sent to England some 80 species of Cacti in living specimens collected near Chihuahua.

I was sorry to hear that Dr Bigelows & Schott specimens of Anhalonium were killed by frost on the way to St Louis. I have under my eye 2 specimens I think living and will try & secure one for you.

I am at present much hurried by business matters & Dr Torrey is absorbed in the cares of house moving including his herbarium. When I get more leisure I will write again

Very Respectfully Yours
Chas C Parry

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POSTAGE
THREE CENTS

NEW J
APR 8

Dr. George Engelmann.
St Louis
Missouri

Recd May 14th

Ans June 30 Davenport Iowa May 9th 1853

Dr Engelmann

Dear Sir;

A singular circumstance has thrown me off the track of my expected plans, making me quite a neighbor to you. I had made all my arrangements at New York to go out with the Bdy party to the Lower Rio Grande for the present summer, and got permission of Maj Emory to go by the way of St Louis in order to see you. While on my way down the Mississippi I was taken so unwell from a threatened febrile attack that I thought it most prudent to return of a season to my N Western home in this place. I am now sufficiently recovered to get about, but have given up the idea of a summers campaign and have written to Maj Emory requesting orders to be sent East to work at my report. In the mean

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time I expect to stay in this vicinity
hoping to get my expected orders. so
that I can meet the Scientific
association at Cleveland on my
way East. where if not before I
hope to have the pleasure of seeing
you

I send after much unexpected
delay my corrected notes in answer
to your enquiries. hope that before
this you have received the box of
Cacti Specimens sent you from
New York.

In prospect of my seeing you
Maj Emory wished me to say that
he would be obliged if you could
publish soon short characters of the
new Bdy Cacti, and have your final
Memoir ready to present to the
next Session of Congress.

I hope to hear from you soon
and remain with much Respect
Yours truly
C C Parry

Mr Schott will be the only botanist
now in the Bdy field —

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Rec^d July 14th
Ans. July 15th

Davenport Iowa July 8th [illegible]

Dr Engelmann

Dear Sir:

I received your letter of 30th ult. being [illegible] unexpectedly detained in this place awaiting orders from Maj Emory. I resided here before joining the Bdy Com. in 1849. and still consider it my chief residence. You may not remember my calling upon you in the Spring of 1848. Then [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] report.

I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Bdy [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I expect to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to pass through [illegible] during the meeting of the Scientific association.

The collections sent you by box from New York were selected for you, & need not be returned.

I was quite surprised to hear of Dr Bigelows new adventure to the far west but I hope he will reap all the credit that his zeal & amiable character so justly deserve

I think our Western friend was out in his calculation of chastising us though perhaps he would like to do it, he thought to make some capital by finding fault with your imperfect description in Emory's 1st report I hope he will be able to tell a good story about flowers & fruit – and that will be more important & useful than fault finding.

I have as yet not heard a word from Emorys party since on the Rio Grande. Mr Schott is the only botanist now in the field

I am out of the way of botanical news here as you may judge I have here my collection of dry plants undistributed, and if any of them interest you should be glad to forward you a set, or any you may select from my list in Emory's report.

The heat of the season is all that has prevented me from going over to St Louis [illegible] [illegible] at the least, when I make this my settled residence I hope to cultivate your acquaintance better

My health is now good as would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] must be [illegible] at any time but for the coming year my address will be Sandy Hill, New York.

I remain Very respectfully yours

Chas. C. Parry

Recd Nov 4
Ans Nov 6

Sandy-Hill. N.Y. Oct 27th /53

Dr Engelmann

Dear sir:

It is now some time since I heard from you, suppose you have been occupied in professional duties, though now it is to be hoped you will have a respite from these labors.

You will be glad to learn that Maj Emory has returned from Texas, the work on the Bdy Survey being nearly completed. he will now give his attention to the office work, and the elaboration of the scientific material for his final report.

I think he would like to hear from you in reference to the matter in your hands, if ready for publication and what amount. I think it is proposed to keep the California part distinct, and to be first published, I presume in that case you would wish to modify the original Manuscript sent by you so long ago.- It is intended to apply for liberal appropriations to cover the cost of illustration, & the pay of colaborators. As soon as I get definite information on this subject I will write you further.

Dr Torrey has lately received the first set of

20 plates of my Californian plants. they are most elegantly drawn under the supervision of Decaisne at Paris. the whole number will amount to 40 or more. they include 2 new pines. one to be called P. Torreyana. . Last week I met Dr. Gray at New York being on a visit to Dr Torrey. the former as you are aware is occupied with the South Sea botany of Exploring Expedition, but will act jointly with Dr Torrey & yourself in working on the lower orders. of Wrightian & Boundary plants.—

Have you yet heard from Dr. Bigelow. either from N. Mexico. or further west? I have heard nothing of his movements since leaving Fort Smith.

Schott. is still on the Rio Grande and will probably bring home some additional plants from the lower portion of the river.

A single species of Anhalonium I have still living but it does not show much signs of growing. during the summer it pushed out a smooth round capsule the size of small goose berry. the seed being immature. it seemed to belong to a flower of the previous Autumn being still crowned with the withered remains.

I expect soon to go on to Washington to meet Maj Emory. but my address will be at this place

With much respect

I am very sincerely Your friend

C. C. Parry

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Recd Nov 24th 1853
Ans March 13 1855

Sandy-Hill N.Y. Nov 18th 1853

Dr Engelmann

My Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your letter of 6th inst and much interested in the information contained, I am realy delighted that you have at last got hold of complete material in reference to the C Giganteus.

It is anoying to you no doubt, to have this matter complicated with personalities in which you take no interest except on the grounds of common courtesy. I certainly feel as indifferent to such matters as you & would gladly have them all merged in forgetfulness.

You may know however that Thurber's course is instigated by chagrin which he shares with Mr Bartlett in their failure to take sole control of these matters. their policy which I know to have been selfish & ungenerous. now properly falls on their own heads.– Though Thurber may have found it convenient to speak friendly of other gentlemen connected with the botanical department of the survey to you he has also found it convenient to speak otherwise in other places, so ~~that~~ I am forced to withhold my confidence

I mention this to show why I think any personal application of mine would be unavailing,

I should think your difficulty in the matter might be obviated by making a separate publication say in Silliman's Journal of the new additional matter furnished you by Mr Thurber, after which having made it public property, of course you as well as anybody else may use it in the way of quotation to give completeness to your more general publication.

I have just a short note from Emory who authorizes me to make use of all available means for expediting the preparation of our Scientific matter so that I have no hesitation in recommending you to employ at once a draftsman in the preparation of your illustrations and figures. I do not learn of any additional collections. Schott may have something behind as he is yet on the Lower Rio Grande and I have not heard from him since May last

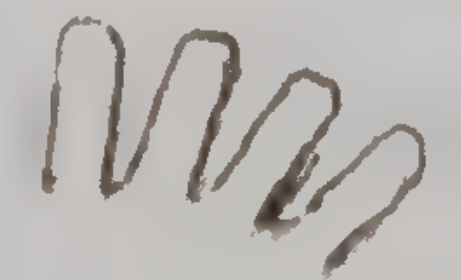
I should like very much some seeds of C giganteus. with suggestions about the best mode of planting &c.

I do not hear from Torrey lately. as you remark he is a bad correspondent. being far too much occupied with other matters to do justice to his botanical reputation. he has now in addition the appointment of Assayer at New York, by which he hopes to save time for botany by enabling him to drop other engagements. I hope it may be so but hardly expect it

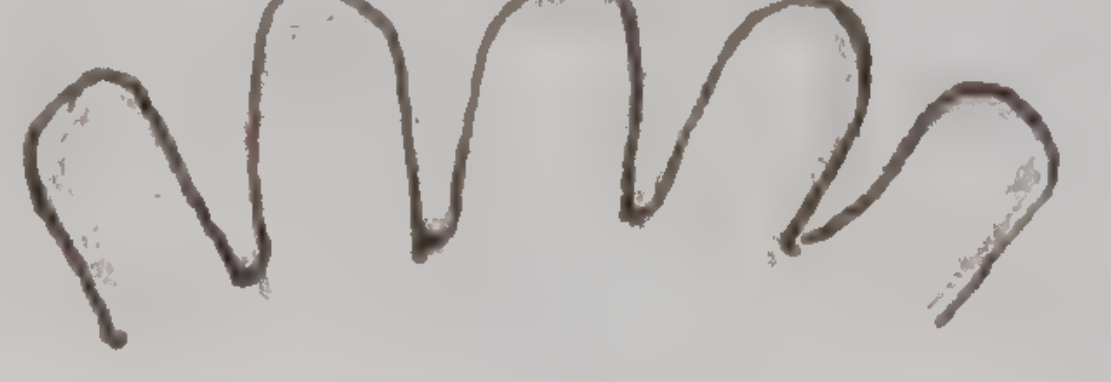
I wonder at your not hearing from Dr Bigelow: as he is generally prompt in availing himself of opportunities to communicate with his scientific friends

I did receive your letter of July at Davenport in reference mainly to N.W. botany. being just on the eve of leaving for the East I could not give much attention to the subjects alluded too, A cursory comparison inclined me to the opinion that the sp of *Talinum*. found on the St Peters. is not *T. parviflorum*.

In reference to the sections marked on your letter that of the old. & young plant are correct that of "the upper part of the stem" I think not. The intervals should be *sharply angular* the ribs more uniformly flattened. and abruptly rounded - thus -



The slice sent you of an



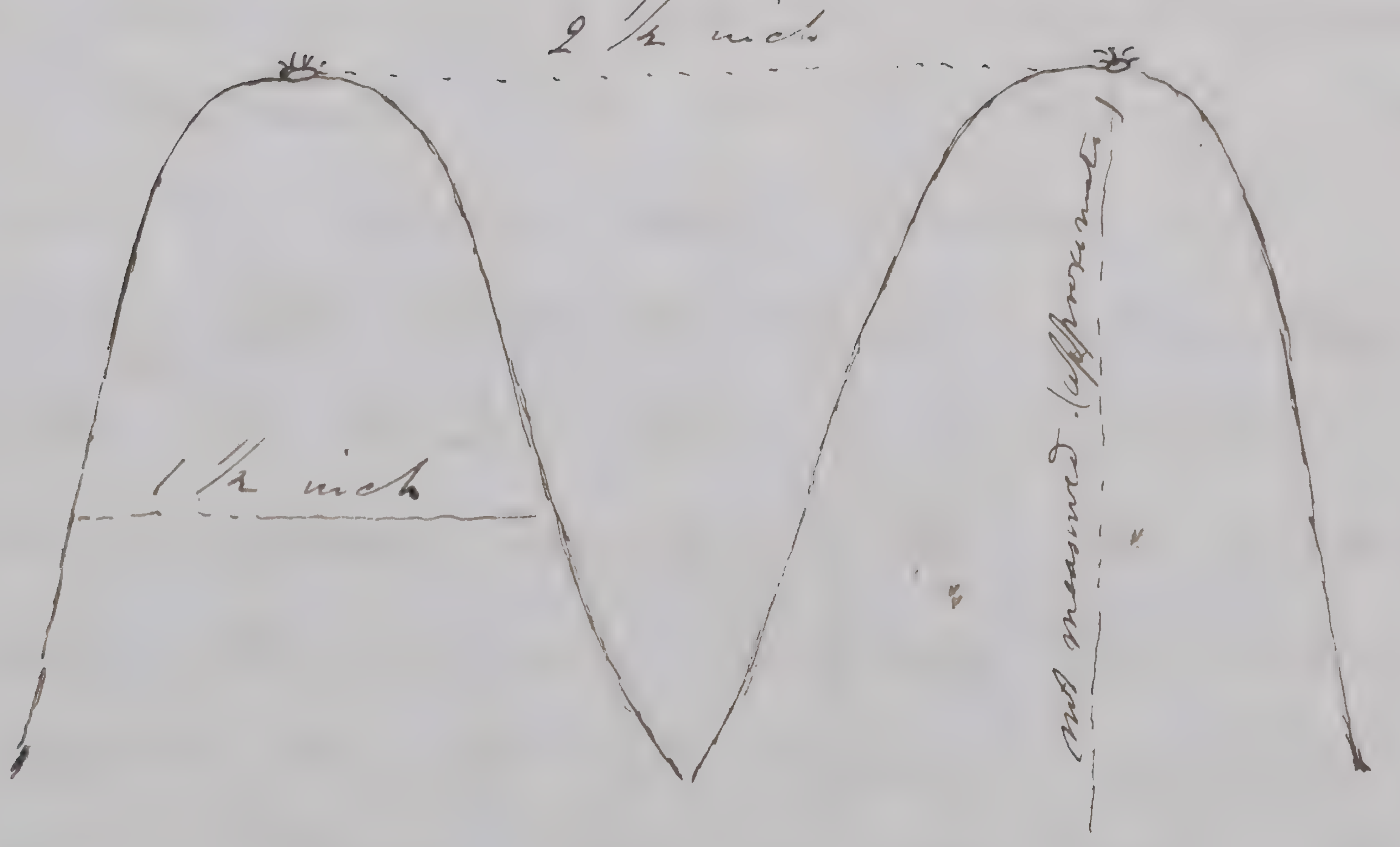
upper rib was about the usual depth. and the planes are very flat & even.

I am quite closely occupied at present in the geological part of my work. Prof Hall of Albany will assist me.

Maj Emory is anxious to have his report in sufficient forwardness to enable him to ask for the necessary appropriations for immediate publication you know such things are generally delayed too long I think he will have no difficulty in gaining his point though he has some zealous enemies. I hope to hear from you again and remain

Sincerely & respectfully Yours

C C Parry.



Section of two upper ribs from measurements. 1 ft from summit
Diameter of axis including ribs 16 inches
width of interval from center of each areolae. 2 ½ inch
" " ribs toward their base 1 ½ inch

Note made on a specimen measured. "Upper ribs sharply rounded with deep intervals."

The specimen of upper spines sent you was just from the first curve on the summit to form the vertex.

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Recd March 24th
Ans same day

Davenport Iowa March 20th/55

My Dear Dr Engelmann.

Not to delay an answer to your letter of 13th inst. I hasten to reply just on its reception.

I was greatly rejoiced to hear of your concerted action with my old friend Bigelow nothing would give me greater pleasure than to meet you as you suggest but the shortness of time, and want of preparation will prevent. at least while Dr Bigelow remains.

About your enquiries I am sorry to have occasioned confusion due to my inexperience at the time in properly distinguishing species. I think however by reference to my field notes now before me I can unravel -

The flowers & plants sent you are one species and belong to the Pacific coast at San Diego. When found shortly before my leaving the country. I imagined this to be identical with the Gila plant &c. supplied to my former description. The

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characters of the flower.— The full description excluding the flower belongs to the Gila species. or Corky seeded. It was made with the plant before me and seed attached. I also think without doubt that the detatched spines* were from the Gila plant. and all that I preserved to identify it my plant specimens having been lost- I think I did not send you specimens of seed. as they also were lost

The bunches of spines. (with flowers)? with label "March" 1852. is as you judge distinct from all the others, and collected in a separate expedition, when no notes were made.

I hope you have the materials to solve this matter satisfactorily. When I come down which I expect to do during the season, we can talk over these and other matters more satisfactory

---

* Perhaps these were never sent you.

I want when I come down to bring a suit of your Desiderata of N W Plants also to get your opinion on some doubtful points as indicated in a previous letter directed to this place –

I have heard from Mr Schott at the junction of the Gila & Col. who will I hope bring in some additional data for completing Bdy Cactaceae..

I do not hear any more from Maj Emory now as I see by the papers transferred to the Cavalry Corps in the new regiments I am equally unsuccessful in getting a line from Dr Torrey; whose forgetful propensities you have had experience of.

Do you make any contributions to the Missouri Flora in connexion with the Geological Survey soon to be published? If so please remember me in your distributions

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I had some expectations of getting a
job in connexion with a Geological
Survey of our State (Iowa) but the
appropriation is so limited I fear
there will be little chance of my
claiming a slice for Botany.
Hall of Albany is expected to get the
appointment of State Geol. which I
hope he will accept

I have met not far from
here (last fall) with the Sullivantia
Ohionis. Have you detected it at
all in the limits of Missouri.

I enclose a line to Bigelow
hoping to persuade him to make
me a visit on his way home

With much regard

yours Respectfully

C C Parry

{enclose note to Dr Bigelow}

Rec^d March 31st
Ans April 27

Davenport Iowa March 23^d 1855

My Dear Dr Engelmann:

You need not fear that your frequent letters will trouble me as it is a pleasure not only to receive but answer. I wrote you in answer to previous enquiries a few days since that the Mam. flowers & dead specimens are from the San Diego plant, no doubt, M Goodrichii. Detached single spines (if any sent) to M phellosperma; and the matted mass of spines. from the Pima Village on the Gila, collected 1852. M Grahamii

My E Cylindraceus. was described in June 1850. Specimens were then abundantly in fruit. and I was less particular to make full descriptions as I expected to secure specimens. unfortunately lost. I cannot however be mistaken in the the character of the fruit. remarkable for its size, and I am sure distinct from the section. E laticostatus. its fruit being

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juicy almost Edible seeds large.
as I should say intermediate in character to E viridescens, & E Wislizeni,
Still I cannot but consider it distinct from either. though E viridescens is quite variable.--

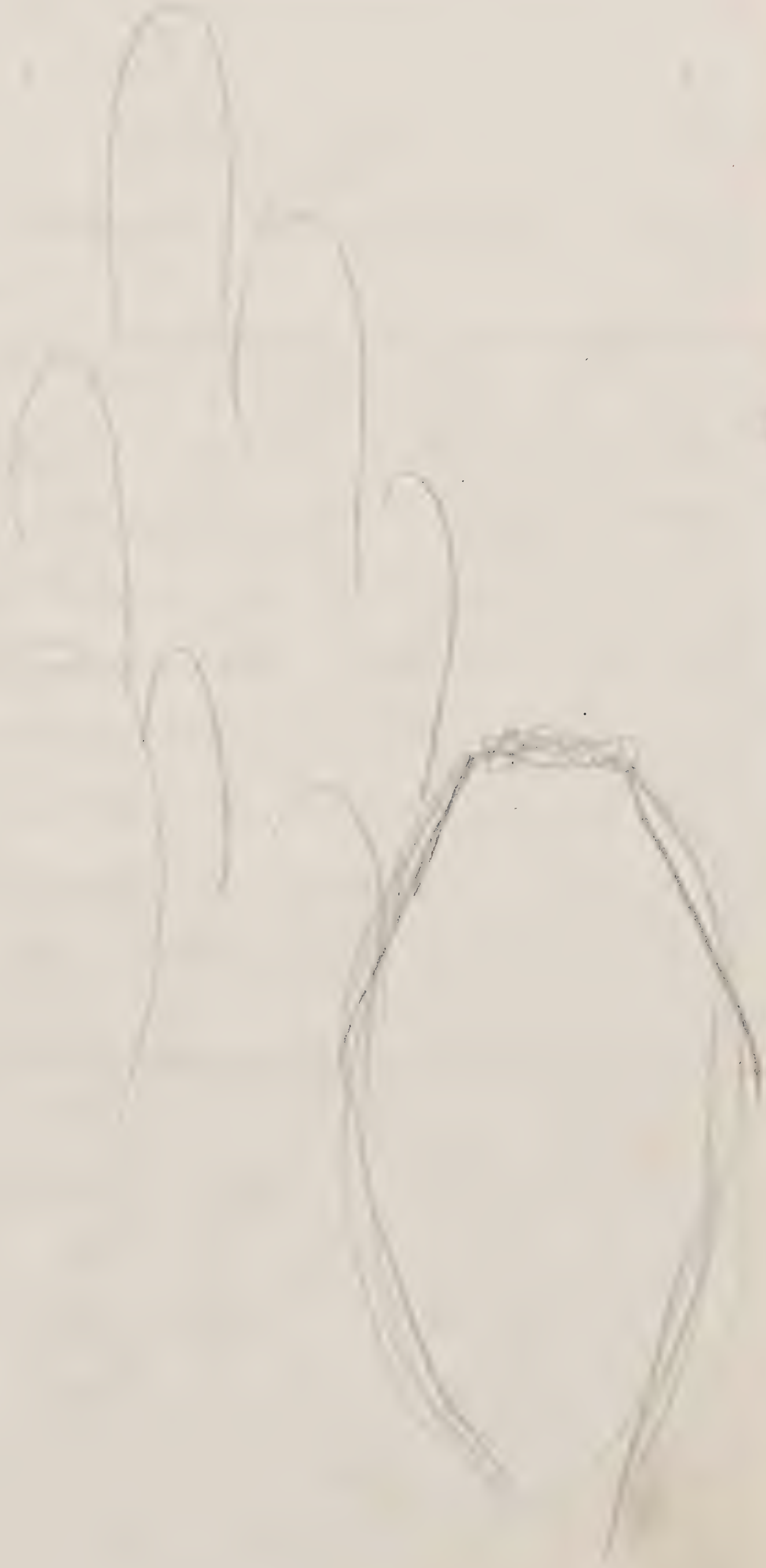
My Description of E albispinus was from specimens seen Jany 28th 1852 at Semiclanka Spring. not far from Lake Sta Maria, and about the same character of country. I remember distinctly of finding one specimen with old fruit attached. & which was similar in character to E. lectiostata, capsule dry. seeds large. I met with it only at this place & time, and brought away only the meagre description sent you. Except bunches of spines. which I now have here among my collection. I remember putting the seeds also away. but they were lost. in the mishaps of a long subsequent journey.

So that I fear E cylindraceus must remain among the doubtful sp. till more material is collected for its identification. Perhaps Schott will supply the needed data

Pray use your influence to send Dr. Bigelow this way on his return to the East. being fresh from your examinations, & access to my notes he may elucidate some of these doubtful matters. If he comes I should like some previous notice. if possible. though not important. Tell him to come direct to my house.

I am very truly yours &c

C. C. Parry.



Rec'd Ap 23
Ans April 27

Davenport Iowa April 20th/55.

My Dear Dr Engelmann:

Since Dr Bigelow was here refreshing my recollections of Cacti, a single suggestion has occurred to me; from a comparison of specimens left by him and my specimens, viz Are not your E. albispinus. and the Dr's E. Engelmanni - the same species? Dr B. left me specimens of fruit & seed corresponding with my recollections of the plant from which description of E albispinus. was obtained, also an upper bunch of spines corresponding very well with two bunches saved by me from the original specimen (E albispinus) doubtless you have other material which you can compare with my description. I remember noticing particularly the spiney scales imbedded

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in the wool surrounding the fl & fr
I remember also the seeds of my
specimen observed being large &
irregular

Did I send you any specimen
of spines of E albispinus? If not
a bunch will be sent you the
first opportunity

No more at present

Yours truly
C. C. Parry.

Recd May 8th
Ans June 12

Davenport Iowa. May 4th /55

My Dear Dr Engelmann.

Your additional notes on E. alb. & E. Engl. only go to confirm my suspicion of their identity. My spines of E. alb. agree in general with your ground plan. only the radial spines are 11. The two upper side spines are the longest of the ray circle, being in one case nearly equal to the upper central, the lower central & two ray spines below. incline to an irregular curved point. all particularly the central are sharp angled. and are marked with transverse cross lines of a pink color conspicuous at the summit. The areolar wool is old, & brown.

The branching character of E. E. noticed by Dr B. might be due to accidental causes.. fire for instance. I noticed this fact very striking in regard to

E viridescens which is naturally simple but in one of my journeys over an old burnt district I noticed them almost constantly bunched. or abnormal prolonged growth. or thickened. forming often dense bunched masses. like the bunched Cerei.

You notice spines of E. E. "stouter longer reddish not as bulbous at base as the central spines of E abb" none of these distinctions would apply to a comparison of my specimens with one left by Dr B of E. engl.

My specimens & notes were taken Jany 21st 1852. I did not see any other specimen except at that one locality & season then on a rapid travelling trip.
Mr Wright found the plant in a corresponding locality further west. in April 1852
First opportunity I will send you a bunch of my E abb. spines
I have not heard from Dr B since he left for Ohio

We expect Prof Hall of Albany NY to take charge of our State Geol. Survey

Letters will reach Schott directed to care of Maj Emory. El Paso. Texas.

Respectfully Yours
C. C. Parry.